



# Proclamation

## By the Governor of Alabama

*WHEREAS*, for over four decades, the Helen Keller National Awareness Center for DeafBlind Youths & Adults (HKNC) has led the annual national observance of Helen Keller DeafBlind Awareness Week, a celebration of talents, achievements and contributions of Deaf & Blind individuals who enrich our communities, workplaces and culture through their unique perspectives and leadership; and

*WHEREAS*, the observance traces back to 1984, when President Ronald Reagan issued a proclamation designating the last week of June in honor of Helen Keller's birthday on June 27; and

*WHEREAS*, Helen Keller, the inspiration behind the HKNC and among some of the first to advocate for other Deaf and Blind individuals, hailed from Tuscumbia, Alabama; and

*WHEREAS*, in 2026, Deaf & Blind Awareness Week will be celebrated under the theme of "Connected by Touch: Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges" because touch is the foundation of how Deaf & Blind individuals communicate, learn, work and thrive; and

*WHEREAS*, HKNC has joined with the American Deafness and Rehabilitation Association, the American Association of the DeafBlind, the National Center on Deafblindness and the Usher Syndrome Coalition in a shared commitment to expanding awareness, advancing accessible communication and elevating the voices and contributions of an estimated 2.4 million Americans living with combined hearing and vision loss; and

*WHEREAS*, the Alabama Institute for Deaf & Blind (AIDB) serves over 31,000 infants, children, adults and seniors with hearing and vision loss each year across all 67 counties; and

*WHEREAS*, Alabama recognizes the contributions of its Deaf and Blind community and the organizations that support them:

*NOW, THEREFORE*, I, Kay Ivey, Governor of Alabama, do hereby proclaim June 25 through July 1, 2026, as

# Deaf & Blind Awareness Week

in the state of Alabama.



Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the Office of the Governor at the State Capitol in the City of Montgomery on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of July 2026.

*Kay Ivey*  
Kay Ivey, Governor